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January 8, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 205030

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Please do all that you can to get the responsible court to accept the Microsoft agreement to settle the lawsuit brought by the Department of Justice. Our high-tech industry has suffered greatly, partly due to the millions of dollars spent on legal wrangling over this suit that, in my opinion, should not have occurred.

The suit was brought in part by HP and Sun Microsystems who had developed systems using software that was not user friendly; even engineers found it difficult to use. The simplicity of the Microsoft software propelled their products to the top of the market.

The proposed settlement, as I understand it, would require Microsoft to disclose technical information to its competitors, guarantee flexibility to computer manufacturers for desktop configuration, and make it easier for consumers to switch to non-Microsoft software. This seems to me to be more than fair for any competitor who believes success lies in the power of his/her ideas rather than through litigation.

Let's bring this wasteful pursuit of Microsoft to an end, so that the money can be spent on innovation rather than litigation. Innovation helps our nation; litigation helps only a few trial lawyers to the detriment of our nation. END IT NOW!

Yours truly,

Bruce leake